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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/535,703	05/19/2005	Masayuki Hirafuji	028567-0140	7565
22428 7590 09/27/2007 FOLEY AND LARDNER LLP SUITE 500 3000 K STREET NW WASHINGTON, DC 20007			EXAMINER SUTHAR, RISHI S	
			ART UNIT 2862	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 09/27/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/535,703	Applicant(s) HIRAFUJI ET AL.	
	Examiner Rishi Suthar	Art Unit 2862	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 15-40 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 May 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>20050519</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

The claims listed below recite the following limitations:

- Claims 16 and 29: "the target", "the photographic subject area" and "the multiple directions"
- Claims 19 and 32: "the storage device", "the external storage device", and "the image data"
- Claims 22 and 25: "[the] sensors"

There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 15-17, 20, 21, 24, 28-30, 33, 34 and 37 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sengupta et al. ("Sengupta", US 6,359,647).

Sengupta discloses an autonomous operation control system comprising: a monitoring apparatus that is provided at a first remote location, and acquires image information on a photographic subject (cameras 101, 102, 103), the monitoring apparatus including a shooting unit that performs shooting of the photographic subject; a photographic-subject

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detecting unit that detects the photographic subject (111, 112); and a signal generating unit that generates an alarm signal (111, 112); and an autonomous operation controller (120) that is provided at a second remote location, and remotely controls the monitoring apparatus, wherein the autonomous operation controller includes a function of automatically operating a plurality of shooting units and a plurality of signal generating units based on photographic information acquired by the monitoring apparatus to photograph an image and generate a signal (col. 3, line 66 to col. 4 line 26); when the target that intrudes in the photographic subject area is detected, the shooting unit zooms in the target from the multiple directions using a zoom function (col. 3, lines 54-65); wherein the autonomous operation controller automatically operates the shooting units and the signal generating units based on photographic data and signal data acquired by the monitoring apparatus to generate the image information on the photographic subject and the signal; wherein the autonomous operation controller transmits a signal based on the image from the monitoring apparatus and information from a sensor, and gives an instruction to a subject based on the signal; wherein the autonomous operation controller further includes a control function of controlling the photographic subject by the shooting unit to dynamically determine a photographic direction using the image information acquired from a plurality of locations; and a simultaneous photographing function of photographing the photographic subject from the multiple directions simultaneously; wherein the autonomous operation controller further includes a function of collecting information on the photographic subject by giving an instruction to the monitoring apparatuses disposed at a plurality of locations to

photograph same location simultaneously and to photograph the photographic subject from the multiple directions or to zoom in the photographic subject by using a zoom lens.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 18, 19, 22, 23, 25-27, 31, 32, 35, 36 and 38-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sengupta in view of Esbensen (US 7,124,427).

Regarding claims 18, 19, 31 and 32, Sengupta teaches the invention as claimed above, but does not expressly disclose a storage device that stores image information according to recording time. Esbensen discloses a camera system where images captured by cameras are stored in a storage device (at 22) that stores images according to recording time. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the system of Sengupta with a storage capability of Esbensen, since storage devices are conventional for surveillance type camera systems for the desired feature of keeping video/images of scenes that may later be relied upon.

Regarding claims 22, 23, 35 and 36, Sengupta teaches the invention as claimed above but does not expressly disclose a function of performing overall control of the shooting units through the Internet, or a communication network through a wireless local area network for the monitoring apparatuses. Esbensen discloses accessing a remote camera system for overall control that may be accessed through the Internet as well as connections for the monitoring apparatuses via a wireless local area network. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Internet accessibility and wireless connections as taught by Esbensen in the invention of Sengupta since these are conventional features for remote camera systems for the desired feature of ease of accessibility and installation.

Regarding claims 25-27 and 38-40, Sengupta teaches the invention as claimed above, but does not expressly disclose a plurality of control instruction groups for exercising different controls executed by the autonomous operation controller for different operations and a function of recording the control instruction groups in an arbitrary control device connected to a network. Esbensen discloses a plurality of control instruction groups (at rules storage 26) for exercising different controls and a function of recording the control instruction groups in an arbitrary recording device (storage) connected to a network (50) (Esbensen, col. 9, lines 36-47). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a plurality of control instruction groups as taught by Esbensen in the invention of Sengupta in order to obtain the desirable feature of programming and modifying desired

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rules into the autonomous controller pertinent to the precise needs of the specific environment in which the monitoring is to be done.

Telephone Numbers

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rishi Suthar whose telephone number is 571-272-8456. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30am to 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Assouad can be reached on 571-272-2210. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Rishi Suthar
Examiner
Art Unit 2862

William Perkey
Primary Examiner

RS
September 18, 2007